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Echoes from the Field.

Stragglers in Southern California. The prediction of a cold winter is being verified in Southern California by an unusually large migration of water birds this fall, among them being many stragglers not often seen, and a few not heretofore recorded. Among the latter I have had brought to me for identification, a specimen of Ross's Snow Goose, (*Chen rossii*), shot at the Bolsa Chica Club grounds near Newport, Cal., by Dr. A. Fenyès, Nov. 10, 1900. It was flying in company with an American White-fronted Goose which was also secured, no other geese being in the vicinity. On Nov. 28 Mr. E. R. Hull brought me a pair of Old-squaws (*Harelda hyemalis*) shot at the same place. They were flying together over a blind when one was dropped, the other circling back to meet the same fate. The Ross's Snow Goose and the Old-squaw are both additions to Mr. Grinnell's 'List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co., Cal.', which also includes the western part of Orange Co. A flock of about 125 American White Pelicans flew over the city Nov. 25, one being secured at long-range by a high-power rifle. Of recent years only flocks of a dozen or so have been noted. All of the birds secured and noted above have found their way into my collection.

FRANK S. DAGGETT, Pasadena, Cal. Nov. 28, 1900.

The Alaskan Yellow Warbler in California. Three specimens of *Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa* are recorded by Oberholser (*Auk* XIV, Jan. 1897, p. 78) as taken by Mearns at Mountain Spring, San Diego County, May 11, 1894. Mr. W. O. Emerson has recently sent me three skins, undoubtedly referable to *rubiginosa*, taken by him at Haywards, October 4 and 7, 1898, and Sept. 14, 1900. These are readily distinguishable from fall skins of *Dendroica aestiva morcomi*, the usual Yellow Warbler of California, by larger size, darker dorsal surface, and a well-marked buffy tinge on the under parts. The Alaskan Yellow Warbler may therefore be looked for during the spring and fall migrations at about the above dates.

JOSEPH GRINNELL, Palo Alto, Cal.

Further Tape Worm Observations. It seems peculiar that more birds have not been discovered to be "free boarding-houses" for tape-worms. Mr. Belding's article in the July-August (1900) CONDOR surprised me, inasmuch as I had never considered tape-worms of unusual rarity in birds, having found them in quite a number of species, as follows:—*Lophortyx californicus*.—About three years ago while hunting in Monterey Co., I examined a great many quail, and at least one-third of them had tape worms from 2½ to 4 inches long. The birds were all full-grown and the parasite existed in the intestines. *Buteo borealis calurus*.—In October, 1897 I examined a Redtail which had a tape-worm in the intestines. It was about eight or ten inches long. *Zenaidura macroura*.—In July, 1900 I killed a female Mourning Dove which had a very long tape-worm in the intestines. She was extremely emaciated and had an egg in the oviduct almost ready for extrusion. The worm was wound around and around and the intestines plainly showed the hermaphrodite as it squirmed about in them. *Erismatura rubida*.—While at Morro I removed the intestines of several "wiretails" which contained tape-worms. The worms were about two feet long and the birds were nearly all very thin. *Spatula clypeata* and *Diffila acuta*.—Killed one Shoveller and one "sprig", each showing a tape-worm. Both birds were much emaciated. *Melanerpes f. bairdi*.—In 1897 and 1898 I killed several of these woodpeckers with tape-worms in their intestines. Will collectors kindly attempt to add to this list? Tape-worms may be much more common in birds than we suspect, and careful dissection may result in discoveries we do not expect.

CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

Two Interesting Stragglers for Marin Co. Cal. *Coccothraustes v. montanus*. While driving through our county-road gate about ten o'clock on the morning of Nov. 20, 1900, my attention was attracted by a small flock of strange birds in the top of an ash tree opposite. They were feeding upon the buds and were not in plain view, yet the white bands on the wings at once called to mind the Western Evening Grosbeak. It seemed impossible that this identification could be correct, as this bird is a very rare visitant to this county, two or three only having been reported as seen in years past, one specimen sent me from Olema and now in our collection, and one seen by me on July 15, 1900 while I was deer-hunting. Leaving my companion to watch the flock I drove back to the house about half a mile distant, after a gun, and upon returning found the flock still in the immediate neighborhood, and consisting of ten or twelve birds. Three were secured, one of which was a male, apparently upon dissection a bird of the year; one an adult female and the third a female bird of the year. This last was exceedingly fat, while the first two were thin.

Nucifraga columbiana. It is a pleasure to be able to mention the capture of a bird never before recorded from this county, and as far as I know, not suspected of ever having been even a straggling visitor. On the 20th of November, 1900, a box was sent me from Point Reyes station in this county, containing besides one specimen each of *Porzana jamaicensis* and *Porzana noveboracensis*, an immature female Clarke's Nutcracker to which was attached a note from the donor asking what manner of bird this might be. I immediately sent a note of thanks for the specimens and enclosed a list of questions concerning the capture, for the donor to answer. His reply contained the statements that the Clarke's Nutcracker was shot in a pine tree on the top of a ridge on Point Reyes proper, on the south-west side of Tomales Bay, Marin Co., Cal. by himself on Nov. 19; that this was the only one seen at the time, but that he had seen one about a month before in the same place, which he thought was the same individual as the one shot, and that one was seen about a mile from the spot the day before the capture by a member of the Country Club. This he also believes to be the same individual, but promises to keep a sharp lookout in order to verify his supposition. This party is a hunter of great experience and naturally of an observing nature, yet he states that during all the years in which he has hunted, and at times been game-keeper in this county, he has never before seen a bird of this species except as above mentioned. This specimen was much emaciated, as if it had been a difficult matter for it to find proper food in this region, though the locality where it was shot is partially covered with a species of nut pine which would seem to be adapted to the bird's needs, and yet which grows in no other part of the county.

JOSEPH MAILLARD, San Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.

Two Albinos from San Mateo Co., Cal. I have recently added two more albinos to my collection; one, a "white quail" (*Lophortyx californicus vallicolus*), a male, and the exact counterpart of the bird described by Mr. McGregor in a recent number of THE CONDOR. The other is a "white blackbird" (*Agelaius gubernator californicus*) with the exception of about half a dozen feathers on the breast and the same number between the shoulders on the back. The body is pure white, the top of the head is normal, the wings each contain about six or eight white feathers; the feathers on one side of the tail were shot away, those remaining being black. The bird has red shoulders but they are much paler than normal, and the color seems to have "run" across the breast and throat, giving these parts a rosy hue. This is the most interesting albino I have ever seen, it having been presented to me by Mr. Chas. Nichols of Pescadero, at which place it was shot. The quail was taken

here, within about three miles of the place at which the one recorded by Mr. McGregor was captured. Both albinos are in my collection.

CHASE LITTLEJOHN, Redwood City, Cal.

Notes from Los Angeles Co., Cal. *Uria troile californica*. On Nov. 3, 1900 in a box of birds in the flesh, sent me by Mr. Lee Chambers from Santa Monica, I found a California Murre ♀. The bird had been found dying on the beach and was in a greatly emaciated condition. I believe that this is an addition to our county list as I can find no record of its occurrence here.

Coccothraustes v. montanus. On Oct. 21, 1900 I saw an Evening Grosbeak in the Arroyo Seco Canyon, but failed to secure it. On Dec. 7 on Mt. Wilson I heard the loud call note of one, but did not even see the bird. On Dec. 13 I heard the same note in the wash issuing from the Arroyo Seco Canyon, and was fortunate enough to secure the bird, an adult female.

Junco hyemalis. I shot a male Slate-colored Junco on Mt. Wilson, Dec. 6, 1900. Another, also a male, was seen the day before; both were observed in flocks of *J. h. thurberi*.

Helminthophila celata. Three warblers that I have shot at Los Angeles (♂ Sept. 17, 1900. ♀ Oct. 30, 1899; ♀ Oct. 8, 1896) have been identified by Mr. Ridgway as belonging to this species. I have seen specimens of this bird every fall in the vicinity of Los Angeles, usually in company with *H. c. lutescens*, from which its grayish head renders it readily distinguishable.

Ammodramus sandwichensis bryanti, An *Ammodramus* shot by me at San Pedro Dec. 10, 1899, has been identified as Bryant's Marsh Sparrow by Mr. Ridgway. I have one or two others taken about the same time, apparently similar, so it may be found to be of regular occurrence here in the winter, though not recorded before.

H. S. SWARTH, Los Angeles, Cal.

Notes from San Luis Obispo Co., Cal. While at Morro on the San Luis Obispo coast I discovered three sets of Snowy Plover's (*Ægialitis nivos*a) eggs on August 1, two sets being of three and one of two eggs. All were heavily incubated at this date and would have hatched in a day or two. The eggs were laid on the sand above high-water mark in slight hollows.

During April, 1900, I had the good fortune to record Cabanis' Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*) for this county by taking two sets of eggs, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$. One of the nests which I found was peculiar in that it had *two* entrances, one about five inches below the other and to one side, but each entrance seemed equally used. In 1899 I obtained a set of *D. nuttalli* from the same tree, a dead cottonwood. This addition to the list now gives the upper Salinas valley six breeding species of *Picidae*.

While at Morro, Nov. 25, 1900 I saw two Bald Eagles. One flew away but the other circled about and finally pounced upon a White-winged Scoter which it carried up the beach and started to devour. At our approach it dropped the bird, which waddled toward the water and swam away apparently unharmed. On Nov. 24 I captured three Scoters alive. They were far up on the beach and apparently were unable to fly from a "ground start". All captured were birds of the year and fully feathered.

CHAS. S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

Notes on the Dwarf Hermit Thrush and Other Notes. On the 11th of December, 1900 I witnessed a rather amusing, yet interesting performance by watching a Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*) securing his dinner. Being confined to the house by illness, I was looking out of a window into our garden for something in the bird line, when I noticed a thrush on the ground under an English walnut

tree. The ground was covered with leaves and the bird would hop up to one of them, nervously jerking his tail and occasionally "flirting" his wings, and selecting a leaf he would suddenly grasp it in his beak and throw it quickly out of his way, and at once make a grab for the angle-worms underneath, sometimes almost falling over backward in his efforts to draw them out of the ground. I watched him for sometime and saw him throw some of the leaves at least fifteen inches. He was very successful, securing one or more worms from beneath every leaf he turned over, and I should like to know by what faculty he could determine beneath which leaves the worms were hidden?

On the 6th of October, 1900 I shot three specimens of the Willow Goldfinch from a flock of perhaps 100 birds. One of them, a young male, shows a rather odd coloration on the crown, where occurs a patch of pure white as large as a dime. Otherwise the plumage is normal.

August 25, 1900 I noticed a Roadrunner on one of the principal residence streets of Santa Clara. After "pacing" down the street a short distance it took a short cut through a fence into a flower garden where it was lost sight of. This was rather an unexpected visitor, but imagine my surprise one morning in November to see an American Coot calmly walking down the street in front of me. I followed closely for over 100 yards and although the bird did not seem to be injured, it acted as though thoroughly "lost". The nearest water where the birds are found is three miles away.

WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal.

Western Evening Grosbeak at Hayward, Cal. The early morning of December 29, 1900, brought in a new record for this part of Alameda County (Haywards), if not for the county at large, no other records as yet having been made of the Western Evening Grosbeak, (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*).

The birds' loud, whistling notes first attracted my attention, as they flew into an almond tree, seeming to rest from a long flight. Some twenty birds were in the flock and only one was shot before they were off, calling as they flew. The one collected proved to be a female in the winter plumage, of grayish color, showing a few yellowish-green feathers in one side of the neck. The crop was full of willow buds, showing that they had lately fed, no doubt among the creek willows below the orchard.

This form of the Evening Grosbeak is found commonly every winter through the Santa Cruz Mountains of the coast range, across the bay west of Haywards. I found them common among the pines at Monterey, Cal., in the latter part of November, 1896, particularly in the early morning, or at day-break.

W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal., Jan. 1, 1901.



Anent an Innovation.

On another page will be found a 'snap-shot' of Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Believing that even the more staid members of our ornithological circle may enjoy seeing some of our prominent ornithologists in moments of relaxation, *Squib* has ventured to inaugurate this series. So many persons are on their good behavior at the photographer's, that we ordinarily see the 'exception' rather than the 'rule'. The original snap-shots being too valuable to trust with the engraver, this series will appear redrawn with slight modifications. And lest some poor man should take us too seriously we beg to assure the world that we "josh only our friends".

"SQUIB."

"Pied Pipers of Santa Barbara" by Martinetta Kinsell, in October *Land of Sunshine*, is a good example of an extreme type of popular ornithology. It is a well written article, but of a gelatinous consistency that affords little mental pabulum. The germ of truth is about as elusive as a cork inside of a bottle. Perhaps it is not a serious attempt; we sincerely hope not. W. K. F.

The *Western Ornithologist*, whose promising career confined itself to three issues, has we regret to say, sought a resting-place in the journalistic graveyard. Thus many creditable and deserving journals are proving steadily the futility of the 50-cent "bird magazine."

The leading feature of December *Bird-Lore* is a popular article on photographing White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*) in their native haunts, illustrated by six superb photographs of the ptarmigan in summer and winter plumage by the author, Mr. E. R. Warren. The photographs are certainly among the most notable published in ornithological magazines during the year.